

**INSIDE: GIGANTIC KNOWLEDGE!  
SUPER-SIZED INFOGRAPHICS!  
TRULY ENORMOUS CIVIC PRIDE!**

# YOUTH VITAL SIGNS

NON  
STOP

**SUPER PARTNERS**



**POWERED BY**

CALGARY'S  
**VitalSigns®**

**HEROIC SUPPORT**

 **TELUS®**

# WHAT IS THIS?

Youth Vital Signs is a quick snapshot of what Calgary youth (12-20 years old) think about their city. This youth-driven report combines results from an opinion survey with timely and relevant research in ten key issue areas.

## AND THE POINT IS...

Youth engagement can only happen when youth voices are heard! Youth Central and The Calgary Foundation launched Youth Vital Signs to support positive leadership and development opportunities for youth to influence change, expand their understanding, and take action in their home, school, and community.

## GRADES SUMMARY

KEY ISSUE AREA	2010	2012*
Arts & Culture	C+	B-
Education & Learning	B	B
Employment & Training	C+	C+
Environment	C+	C+
Health & Safety	B	B-
Housing & Homelessness	C	C
Identity & Belonging	B-	C+
Transportation	C+	C+
Youth Spaces	B-	C+
Youth Voice	C	C+

## UNDERSTANDING THE GRADES

- A** Excellent! Stay the course.
- B** Good, but some improvement could be made
- C** Average performance, suggest additional efforts be made to address these issues.
- D** Below average performance, additional work is required.
- F** Failure! Immediate action is crucial.

\*Youth Vital Signs is published biannually.

# B

## HOW CALGARY YOUTH RATED THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE

Calgary is a great place to be a youth, according to 56% of survey respondents. The majority also rate their physical (66%) and mental (57%) well-being as high.

## HIGHLIGHTS

# C+

### IDENTITY & BELONGING

Youth told us that there is a growing sense of belonging and increase in opportunities to embrace cultural differences. One area of research was less positive...the dropout rate for Alberta ESL learners is more than double the average.

# B

### EDUCATION & LEARNING

The bulk of graders were 15 to 17 and looking ahead to graduation from high school. One of their priorities was more funding options for post secondary education, understandable when Alberta's post secondary tuition fees sit at \$5,662, above the Canadian average of \$5,366.

# B-

### HEALTH & SAFETY

Youth crime rates continue to decrease in Calgary, with the total youth crime rate dropping by 33% between 2006 and 2010.

# C+

### TRANSPORTATION

Youth continue to report that transportation is one of the top areas of concern. A youth monthly transit pass is more expensive than in Winnipeg, Montreal and Vancouver.

# C+

### YOUTH VOICE

72% of survey respondents indicate they have volunteered within the last year. Alberta-wide, statistics show that 66% of youth aged 15-19 volunteered in 2010.



2010 GRADE: B-

## Youth Spaces

### YOUTH PRIORITIES

- ① More all-ages clubs
- ② Incentives for youth to be active
- ③ More recreational spaces

### 3 THINGS YOU CAN DO

- ① Explore The New Black Centre for Music & Art
- ② Mobile skate parks come to Calgary this summer, check [calgary.ca](http://calgary.ca)
- ③ Attend a Friday Youth Night at City of Calgary Leisure Centres

# 2064

Individual youth participated in the City of Calgary's AfterSchool programs, with over 23000 visits in 2010.



**Shaw Millennium Park is North America's largest free outdoor 24hr skatepark**

Shaw Millennium  
Alberta



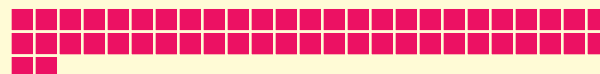
75,000  
sq. ft.

Lk. Cunningham  
California



68,000  
sq. ft.

Black Pearl  
Cayman Islands



52,000  
sq. ft.

### DID YOU KNOW?

# 69%

of Canadians live in a metropolitan area. The fastest-growing of these is Calgary, whose population grew 13 percent in 2011



2010 GRADE: C+

## Environment

### YOUTH PRIORITIES

- ① Blue recycling bins for apartment buildings
- ② More bike trails/lanes
- ③ Reduced reliance on cars

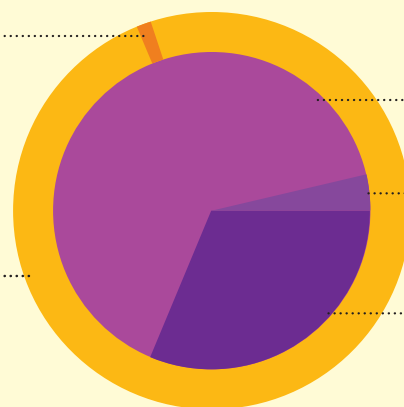
### 3 THINGS YOU CAN DO

- ① Be a part of the Youth Earth Ambassadors program at Youth Central
- ② Help maintain a community garden. Visit [calhort.org](http://calhort.org)
- ③ Visit the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary and discover your local wildlife reserve!

Students in programs where environmental education is used as an integrating theme, tended to have higher scores in standardized tests in math, reading, writing, science and social sciences.

Students who participated in CPAWS\* environmental education programs= 1135

100,632  
total students in CBE schools



**221**  
schools in CBE

Green Ecosites (12).

Emerging Green Ecosites (72).

\*Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society

### DID YOU KNOW?

Alberta has the youngest population of all Canadian provinces with a median age of just 36, and a proportion of persons 65 years or older of only 11%.

In both cases, these percentages were the lowest among all the provinces in the nation.

Crazy!



2010 GRADE: C

## Youth Voice

### YOUTH PRIORITIES

- ① Increased awareness of options and opportunities
- ② More youth groups
- ③ All levels of government to consult with or include youth

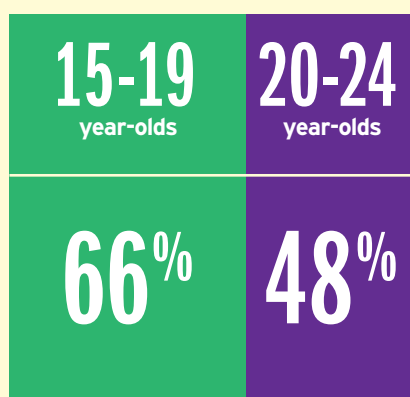
### 3 THINGS YOU CAN DO

- ① Have something you want to advocate for? Learn how at [amnesty.ca](http://amnesty.ca)
- ② Check out [youthareawesome.com](http://youthareawesome.com) to hear from youth or have your voice heard
- ③ Learn more about Calgary's We Day event at [weday.com](http://weday.com)

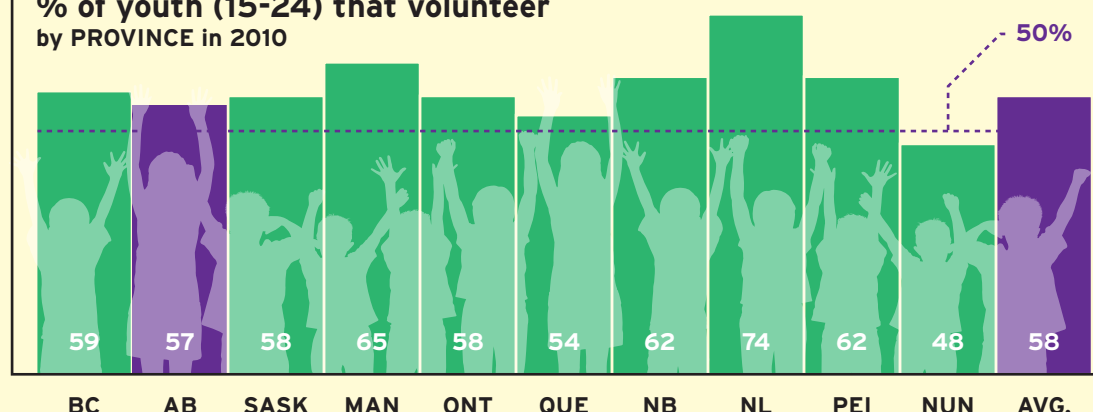
### 2010 Charitable Donation Rates by AGE for ALBERTA

15-24	74%
25-34	83%
35-44	90%
45-54	86%
55-64	87%
65+	82%

### 2010 ALBERTA VOLUNTEER RATES



### % of youth (15-24) that volunteer by PROVINCE in 2010



2010 GRADE: C+

## Arts & Culture

### YOUTH PRIORITIES

- ① Lower costs to attend events
- ② Lower costs for admission to art galleries, museums, performances
- ③ More all-ages events

### 3 THINGS YOU CAN DO

- ① Support youth musicians at the City of Calgary's annual Toast 'n' Jam
- ② Become a Cultural Ambassador for Calgary 2012
- ③ Check out youth improvisers on Friday nights at Loose Moose Theatre

# 14300

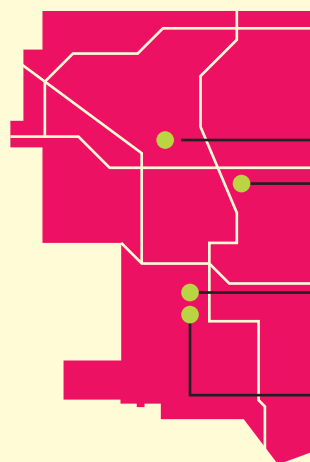
Number of teens who participated in Calgary Public Library programs

# 1005

Teens involved in Toastmasters Youth Leadership

# 3000

Teens from grades 7-12 participated in Globalfest 2011



Four CBE Schools out of 221 are designated as 'arts-centered' and use the arts to teach English, mathematics science and social studies.

JAMES FOWLER SCHOOL  
SIR JOHN FRANKLIN SCHOOL  
LORD BEAVERBROOK SCHOOL  
WILLOW PARK SCHOOL

### DID YOU KNOW?

## POPULATION OF CALGARY: 1,096,833

CALGARY TEENS AGED 15-19 (6% OF TOTAL)  
**66,040**

# B-

2010 GRADE: B

## Health & Safety

### YOUTH PRIORITIES

- ① More youth clinics
- ② More mental health and addiction services
- ③ Better anti-bullying programs

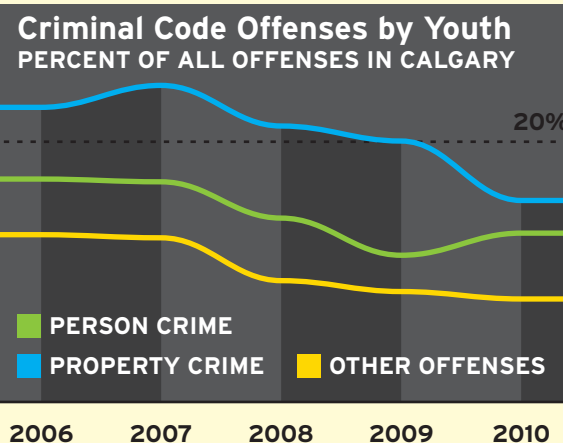
### 3 THINGS YOU CAN DO

- ① Volunteer as a peer support with ConnectTeen at [calgaryconnectteen.com](http://calgaryconnectteen.com)
- ② Check out the Alex Youth Health Centre at [thealex.ca](http://thealex.ca)
- ③ Find a sport you want to take part in by visiting [sportcalgary.ca](http://sportcalgary.ca)

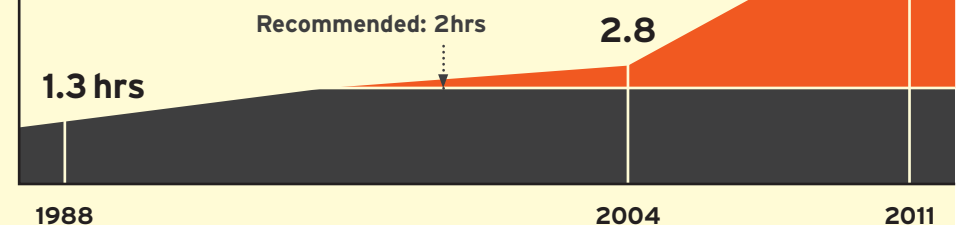
# \$326

PER MONTH

Average food costs for an adolescent male in Calgary if he eats a healthy, balanced diet. Adolescent males 14-18 have the highest food costs of any age group, even pregnant women!



**Canadian Teens spent an average of 6 hours a day in front of a screen in 2011**



# C

2010 GRADE: C

## Housing & Homelessness

### YOUTH PRIORITIES

- ① More youth drop-in centres
- ② Better support for teens
- ③ Affordable student housing

### 3 THINGS YOU CAN DO

- ① Volunteer for Project Homeless Connect and help those less fortunate
- ② Discover more about Calgary's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness - we're on track!
- ③ Donate items to Avenue 15 and EXIT Youth Shelters

**Food Bank Usage**  
in ALBERTA

**7.4%**  
of ALBERTANS

2008

**13%**  
of ALBERTANS

**42%**  
of these are children and youth

2011

# \$1084

PER MONTH

Average rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Calgary in 2011. To afford it on minimum wage means working 14 hours/day.

**Homeless Population**  
IN CALGARY

**3600**

2008

**3190**

2012

13-17 yrs:  
2.5%  
18-24 yrs:  
6%

**In Calgary 9.6% of rough sleepers (sleeping outdoors) were between the ages of 13-24.**

**569**

2008

**64**

2012

# B

2010 GRADE: B

## Education & Learning

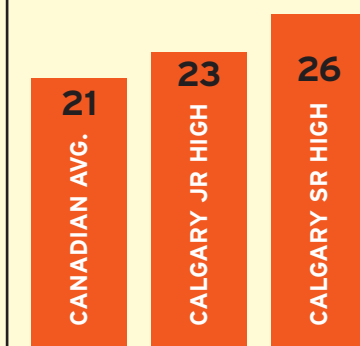
### YOUTH PRIORITIES

- ① Smaller class sizes
- ② More funding options for post-secondary education
- ③ Better life-skills education in high school

### 3 THINGS YOU CAN DO

- ① Participate as a Reading Buddy with the Calgary Public Library
- ② Create an after school homework club with your friends
- ③ Become an in school mentor through Big Brothers Big Sisters of Calgary

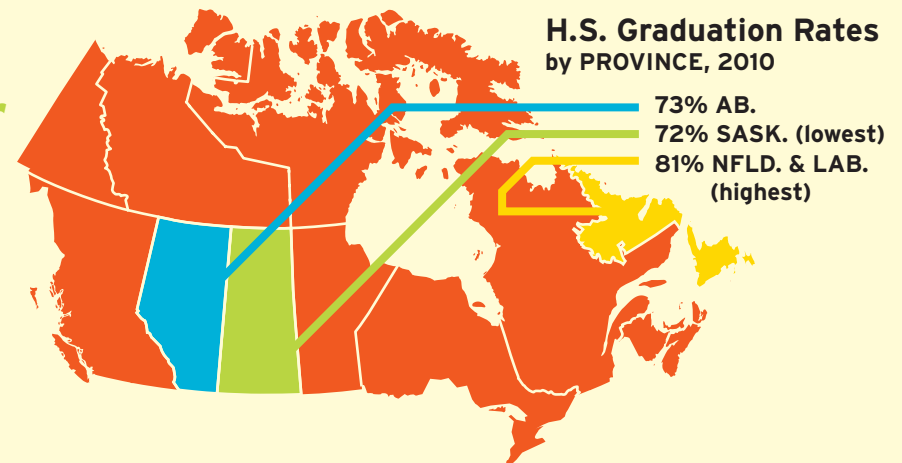
Avg. 2011 Class Sizes  
CANADA vs CALGARY



On average, high school graduates make **\$621 per week (39.2 hours)**.

High school drop-outs only make **\$551**, plus they have to work more hours (39.9).

H.S. Graduation Rates by PROVINCE, 2010



# C+

2010 GRADE: C+

## Employment & Training

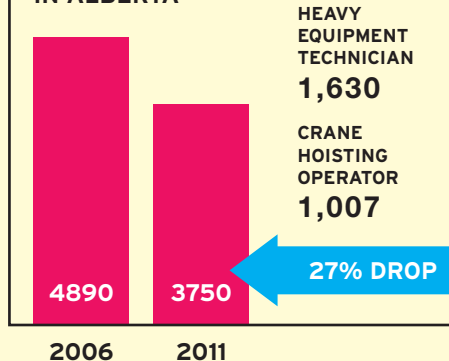
### YOUTH PRIORITIES

- ① Higher wages
- ② More teen-friendly employers
- ③ Increased number of job opportunities

### 3 THINGS YOU CAN DO

- ① Discover the Youth Employment Centre at [nextsteps.org](http://nextsteps.org)
- ② Volunteer! It's great training to be a part of the work force ([volunteercalgary.ab.ca](http://volunteercalgary.ab.ca))
- ③ Learn your employee rights at the Children's Legal and Educational Resource Centre

Apprentice Registrations  
IN ALBERTA



Popular-Trades:

HEAVY EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN  
1,630  
CRANE HOISTING OPERATOR  
1,007

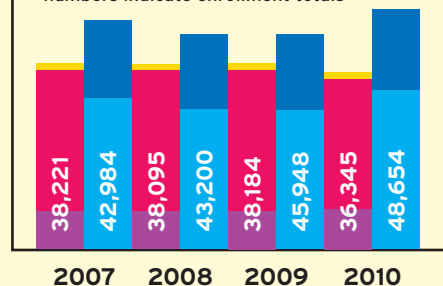
Technical Enrollment

SAIT ACAD Bow Valley

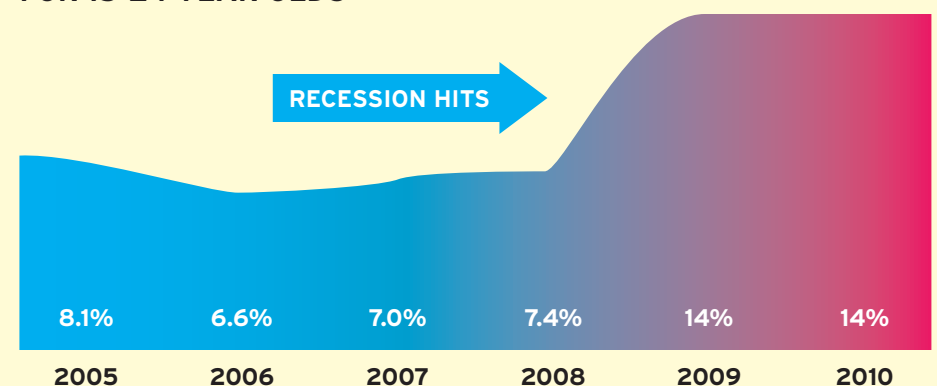
Academic Enrollment

U of C MRU

\*numbers indicate enrollment totals



Youth Unemployment in Calgary  
FOR 15-24 YEAR OLDS





2010 GRADE: C+

## Transportation

### YOUTH PRIORITIES

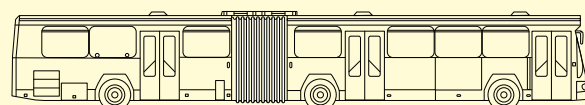
- ① More frequent buses and C-trains
- ② Lower transit fares
- ③ Additional late-night bus runs

### 3 THINGS YOU CAN DO

- ① Volunteer your time with Two Wheel View - earn a free bike! Check out [twowheelview.org](http://twowheelview.org)
- ② Calgary Transit wants to hear from you, visit [routeahead.ca](http://routeahead.ca) to join the conversation
- ③ Walk with Parks Foundation Calgary at their Walk With Us Festival

# 18-19

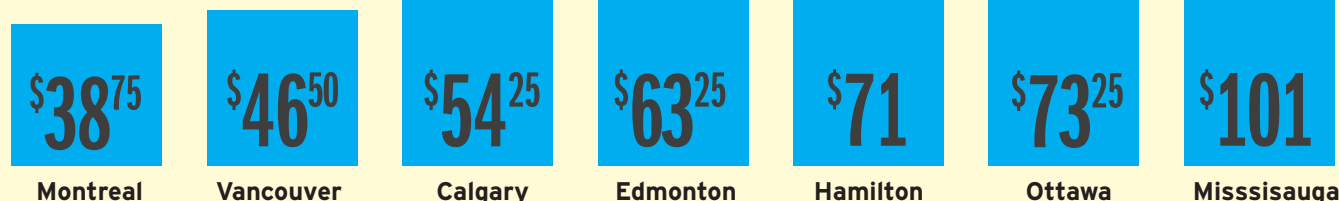
YR. OLD MALES IN ALBERTA MOST LIKELY TO BE IN A CASUALTY COLLISION= 18 collisions per 1000 drivers (or 3.1% of all collisions)  
16-24 age = 48 collisions per 1000 drivers (or 13.2% of all collisions)



# 250,000

Youth passes sold in 2011

### 2011 Youth Monthly Transit Passes in Canada



2010 GRADE: B-

## Identity & Belonging

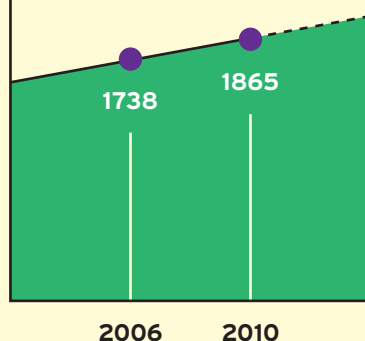
### YOUTH PRIORITIES

- ① More funding for immigrant, refugee, and visible minority programs
- ② More youth mentorship programs
- ③ Focus on inclusion with elementary and middle school students

### 3 THINGS YOU CAN DO

- ① Prevent bullying and racism ([dontbuyin.ca](http://dontbuyin.ca))
- ② Share life skills with a new immigrant at The Immigrant Youth Outreach Project ([cacy.org](http://cacy.org))
- ③ Attend a multicultural festival and learn something new about a different culture!

Immigrants to Calgary  
AGED 15-24



One study of an urban Alberta school revealed a dropout rate for its **ESL learners** that was more than **double** the average high school **non-completion rate**.

## ESL Learners in Alberta almost quintupled in the last 20 years.

71,497

2011-2012 School Year

14,673

1988-1989 School Year

# 64%

of gay, lesbian, questioning, bisexual, trans, Two Spirit, or queer Canadian students feel unsafe at school.

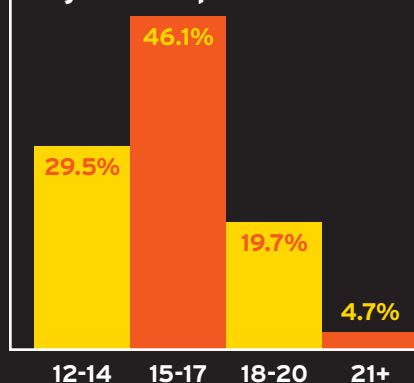


# WHO?

## DID YOU KNOW? THERE'S MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE!

There's a lot more to read online!  
Visit [thecalgaryfoundation.org](http://thecalgaryfoundation.org)  
or [youthcentral.com](http://youthcentral.com) for a detailed  
listing of indicators & sources,  
as well as youth comments.

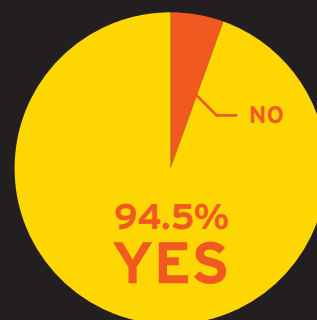
### Age of Respondents



### Gender Breakdown

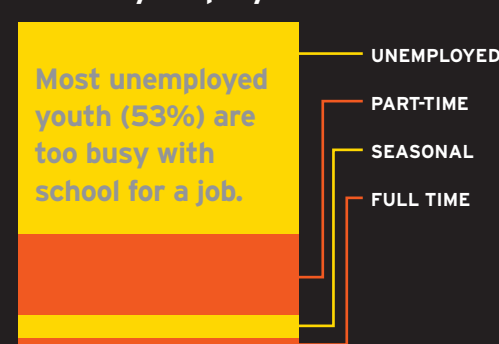


### Place of Birth



### Do they attend School?

### Are they employed?



## HOW WAS THE REPORT MADE? The Praxis group conducted a month-long survey targeted at local youth between the ages of 12-20.

### RESEARCH

#### THIS YEAR WE COLLECTED DATA FROM:

Active Canada 20/20  
Active Healthy Kids Canada  
Alberta Advanced Education  
& Technology  
Alberta Food Bank Network  
Association  
Calgary Board of Education  
Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank  
Calgary Police Services  
Calgary Public Library  
Calgary Transit  
Calgary's Vital Signs Report 2011

Canadian Parks and Wilderness  
Society  
Canadian Teachers' Federation  
Citizenship and Immigration Canada  
Egale Canada Human Rights Trust  
Globalfest  
Statistics Canada  
The Calgary Homeless Foundation  
The City of Calgary  
Transportation Alberta  
Vibrant Communities Calgary  
Youth Central

### THANK YOU

#### YOUTH VITAL SIGNS PROJECT TEAM & SUPPORT

#### THE CALGARY FOUNDATION

Kerry Longpré  
Janice Francey  
Taylor Barrie

#### YOUTH CENTRAL

Penny Hume  
Ros Doi

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Calgary Foundation  
Youth Central

#### PARTNER

TELUS® Community Board

#### COMMUNITY

Village Square Leisure Centre  
Southland Leisure Centre  
YMCA Calgary

#### VOLUNTEERS

Mayor's Youth Council  
Calgary Youth Foundation

## YOUTH VITAL SIGNS IS A PROJECT OF:

The Calgary Foundation, established in 1955, helps create a giving and caring community by identifying needs, convening groups around common concerns, making knowledgeable grants and facilitating philanthropy for the long term benefit of Calgary and area.



Youth Central aims to inspire, engage and celebrate youth through community participation. This vision is based on the belief that young people who experience philanthropy at an early age have an ongoing sense of responsibility to their community. Youth Central envisions a society where all youth participate in shaping a vibrant community.